

CHAPTER III

MACAULAY'S METHOD

MACAULAY'S choice of words, the formation of his sentences, and the construction of his paragraphs are subjects which have been adequately discussed in treatises on English composition and histories of English literature. There is an exhaustive treatise on the subject, with many detailed examples, in the late Professor Minto's Manual of English Prose Literature. Macaulay is one of three modern authors he treats with great minuteness, devoting over fifty pages to an examination of his writings. But the subject to be considered here is a larger one than Professor Minto's. It is not Macaulay's manner of writing the English language, but his manner of writing English history : the method by which he tells his story, connects the different parts of his narrative, explains the questions at issue, draws the characters of men, and describes incidents in the development of events or the scenes in which the events took place.

In some respects Macaulay's style is a model of what the style of a historian should be. Freeman in his book on the Methods of Historical Study expresses his admiration for it in words that many other historians would endorse.

'English historical literature can boast of at least three great writers, each of whom knew how to tell his tale,

though they told it in ways as unlike each
other as if the
later in each case had striven to avoid the
manner of the